 Food Miles

<<Food Miles and Your Carbon Footprint.mp4>>

Transportation of our food, from the farms to the processing factory, from the factory to the shops, from the shops to your home, has happened using trucks, planes, boats and cars, all of which burn fossil fuels, such as petrol and diesel, in their engines.

The burning of fossil fuels has a bad effect on our environment, as it releases greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists believe that it is causing problems of climate change, such as global warming.

The idea of food travelling a long way is known as **food miles** and is yet another thing to think about when buying food if you care for the environment and want to help it.

Activity 1

**Where is my food from?**

**Aim:**

To determine where the food I eat comes from and the distance it travelled.

**Materials Needed:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fruit labels | Vegetables labels | Canned food labels |
| Packaged food labels | Calculator | Ruler |

Jacaranda Atlas World Map.

**Method:**

Complete the table below, by:

- Choosing five items from the hamper (fruit, vegetables, canned foods or packaged goods)

- Identify which country each item has come from. If it is from Australia, which state is it from?

- Mark the origin on the world map in the Learning Centre.

- Estimate the distance that food item has travelled to be in the classroom today (use the scale on the map)

* Calculate the amount of Carbon produced purely by transport. To do this multiply the distance X 0.0549
* Choose a second food item if possible

**Results:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Food | Country | Distance Travelled | Carbon produced by transporting food.  = Distance X 0.0549 |
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**Discussion:**

There is a restaurant in Melbourne called the 100 Mile Café. Why do you think it is called this? Check online to see if you are correct.

List the disadvantages and advantages of buying local produce (food) over imported food (overseas).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |

Many country towns and some city areas now have Farmer Markets.

What are they?

Why do you think they are becoming popular with local residents?

**Conclusion:**

What did you determine about where the food you eat comes from and how far away it is?

**Extension Research Question:**

In this article it is stated that:

*“97 per cent of Woolworths’ fresh fruit and vegetables are grown in Australia. So while only three per cent of our produce comes from overseas we want to make it easier for our customers to know exactly where their food comes from so they can make an informed decision.”*

Why would people want to know exactly where their food comes from?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoLB6DnBIzg&NR=1>